Volume: Vendor Management Department of Health & Human Services

Citation: 246.26 (e) NEBRASKA WIC PROGRAM

Approval Date: November 2008 <u>Procedure Title</u>: Confidentiality

of Vendor Information

Purpose

To outline the vendor information that is considered confidential.

Confidential Information Defined

Confidential vendor information is any information about a vendor (whether it is obtained from the vendor or another source) that individually identifies the vendor, except for the following:

- Vendor's name,
- Address,
- Telephone number,
- Web-site,
- E-mail address,
- Store type, and
- Authorization status.

Except as otherwise permitted, the State Agency must restrict the use or disclosure of confidential vendor information to the following:

- Persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of the WIC Program or the Food Stamp Program who the State Agency determines have a need to know the information for purposes of these programs. These persons may include personnel from its local agencies and other WIC State and local agencies and persons investigating or prosecuting WIC or Food Stamp Program violations under Federal, State, or local law:
- Persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of any Federal or State law. Prior to releasing the information to one of these parties (other than a Federal Agency), the State Agency must enter into a written agreement with the requesting party specifying that such information may not be used or redisclosed except for purposes directly connected to the administration or enforcement of a Federal, or State or local law or ordinance;
- A vendor that is subject to an adverse action, including a claim, to the extent that the confidential information concerns the vendor subject to the adverse action and is related to the adverse action; and
- The State Agency may decide on a case by case basis to inform all authorized vendors and vendor applicants regarding vendor sanctions which have been imposed, identifying only the vendor's name, address, length of the disqualification or amount of the civil money penalty, and a summary of the reason(s) for such sanction provided in the notice of adverse action.

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